



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS TO GO INTO EFFECT FOR CENTRAL ARIZONA

Phoenix, AZ (5/30/17) - As we inch closer to summer, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management will implement Stage 1 fire restrictions for all state-owned and state-managed lands in three more counties. Those counties include, Gila, Maricopa, and Yavapai.

Starting June 1st, at 0800, DFFM will restrict campfires, smoking, and fireworks in those areas.

“We had a very active Memorial Day weekend as far as fire starts go, and we just cannot take any chances. The vegetation is starting to dry out combined with current fire weather conditions, we do not want to take any risks. We need to get ahead of fire season in these counties, and with that, we must implement fire restrictions,” said State Forester Jeff Whitney.

Fire restrictions are already in place for eight counties in southern Arizona.

Restrictions apply to the following state-owned and state-managed lands within the above-mentioned counties including:

- All State Trust lands outside incorporated municipalities.
- All Game and Fish Commission Wildlife areas and department properties outside incorporated municipalities.
- All State Parks outside incorporated municipalities – State Parks will remain open with campfires allowed in developed campgrounds.
- All Department of Transportation highway, right-of-way property outside incorporated municipalities, not owned by federal land management agencies.

Restrictions include:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, other than in a developed campsite or picnic area is prohibited. Exemptions include, a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three feet of the device.
- Smoking is prohibited unless it is within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site/improved site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barred or cleared of all flammable materials.



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- Fireworks or another incendiary device are prohibited.
 - Welding or operating acetylene or other torch devices with an open flame is prohibited.

Exemptions include:

- Any federal, state or local law enforcement officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting organization in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated in a city ordinance.

All exemptions to these restrictions must be approved by the State Forester.

If local authorities have imposed stronger restrictions than those listed above, then the local restrictions shall apply.

These restrictions apply to all permit and lease holders and other authorized users of state-managed lands. These restrictions do not apply to private lands under ARS § 37-1303.

Restrictions are effective at 0800 on Thursday, June 1st, and will continue until rescinded.

For fire restriction information go to: <http://firerestrictions.us/az/>

For more information, contact Tiffany Davila at 602-540-1036 or by email at tdavila@dffm.az.gov



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